

Wednesday, October 10, 2007



THE DAILY BEAT

This publication is provided by the [Governor's Office of Indian Affairs](#) and the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#). The Daily Beat provides daily updates, announcements and articles relevant to Indian Country in Montana. Current and archived issues can be found on the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#) website. Questions? Email Billie Rusek @ brusek@mt.gov or Heather Sobrepeña-George at hsobrepena@mt.gov

MONTANA TRIBAL NEWS:

CHAVEZ SIGNS WITH EXPLORERS, HONORED AT GLACIER PEAKS

By John McGill, Glacier Reporter (10/03/07)

Glacier Peaks Casino's Dennis Fitzpatrick hosted an honoring ceremony for Mike Chavez Tuesday, Sept. 25. The former Heart Butte and Browning basketball star was on hand along with Justin Wetzel, coach of the Great Falls Explorers basketball team.

Wetzel spoke of Chavez having been the first draft choice for the Explorers, and Blackfeet Chairman Earl Old Person presented an eagle feather to Chavez. The

Rawhide Orchestra performed an honor song, and the speakers included Council members Roger Running Crane, Betty Cooper, Sooney Little Plume and Smiley Kittson. Former Heart Butte and Browning coach Leo Kennerly also spoke, praising Chavez.



Mike Chavez, who was drafted by the Great Falls Explorers, was honored Sept. 25, at Glacier Peaks Casino. He is pictured with Justin Wetzel of the Explorers' coaching staff.

A crowd of around 75 people from Heart Butte and Browning attended the ceremonies, as well as Mike's parents, Mary Ann and Joe. Chavez presented an autographed tee shirt to the crowd, as well as a calendar from Wetzel.

Mike Chavez and the Explorers' first home game is set for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the Four Seasons Arena.

NATIVE BLESSING: NEW CENTER TO SHOWCASE STUDENT WORK, MONTANA'S MANY UNIQUE TRIBES

By BETSY COHEN of the Missoulian (10/08/07)



University of Montana student Devin Wagner listens as Scott Russell, right, lights a braid of sweetgrass and during a blessing of the Journalism School's new Native American Center on the third floor of the Don Anderson Hall Sunday morning. LINDA THOMPSON/Missoulian

Holding a braid of smoking sweetgrass, Scott Russell called out in the language of his Crow ancestors and asked the Creator to bless the University of Montana School of Journalism's new Native American Center.

On the third floor of the state-of-the-art Don Anderson Hall, the smoke puffed and climbed skyward as Russell stood under the center's signature giant wooden wheel held up by eight tree-like columns.

At the top of each column are individual plaques honoring the landless Little Shell nation and state's seven reservations: Northern Cheyenne, Crow,

Flathead, Blackfeet, Rocky Boys, Fort Belknap and Fort Peck.

COBELL HISTORICAL ACCOUNTING TRIAL STARTS

OCTOBER 10

BY INDIANZ.COM (10/01/07)

The trial into the historical accounting of the Individual Indian Money (IIM) trust begins next Wednesday, October 10, in Washington, D.C.

The Cobell case was filed in June 1996 to find out much money IIM beneficiaries have or haven't been paid. More than 10 years later, Judge James Robertson wants the Interior Department to show what it has been doing to fulfill its trust duties.

Among the issues to be considered at the open-ended trial:

- Whether the government has cured the breaches of their fiduciary duty that were identified back in December 1999;
- Whether the government's historical accounting plans satisfy statutory and common trust law;
- Whether the government has "unreasonably delayed" the accounting;
- What "further relief" might be available to the plaintiffs.

The trial takes place in Courtroom 23A of the [federal district courthouse](#). It is expected to start every day at 9:30am and end at 5pm.

BLACKFEET FAMILIES SEEK ANSWERS FOR DEATHS

BY INDIANZ.COM (10/01/07)

Two families from the Blackfeet Nation in Montana are frustrated with the lack of action on the deaths of their loved ones.

On July 24, Michael Walling, 22, died after being attacked with a baseball bat. Family members say the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs don't appear to have made progress with the investigation.

On July 11, William White Quills Jr. died after an incident at a house party. His mother, Cheryl Heavy Runner,

wants to hire a private investigator because she says the BIA and the FBI aren't trying to find the killer.

The tribe held a meeting in April where reservation residents complained about the state of law enforcement. Many say crime has increased since the BIA took over the tribe's police force in February 2003.

"If we ever get justice we'd fall over," council member Rodney "Fish" Gervais told The Great Falls Tribune. "You expect nothing to happen. They (BIA and FBI) could catch it on video and they still wouldn't prosecute."

USDA DESIGNATES SEVEN MONTANA COUNTIES AS PRIMARY NATURAL DISASTER AREAS

Decision Allows Farmers and Ranchers to Apply for USDA Assistance (10/03/07)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated seven Montana counties as primary natural disaster areas.

Garfield County, Mont., is designated as a primary natural disaster area because of losses caused by hailstorms that occurred from April 1, 2007, through June 30, 2007. Farm operators in Custer, McCone, Petroleum, Phillips, Prairie, Rosebud and Valley counties in Montana also qualify for natural disaster benefits because their counties are contiguous.

Glacier, Liberty, Pondera, Teton and Toole counties in Montana are designated as primary natural disaster areas because of losses caused by the combined effects of drought, hail, severe storms, strong winds, excessive heat and wildfires that occurred during the period Jan. 1, 2007, and continuing. Farm operators in Cascade, Chouteau, Flathead, Hill and Lewis and Clark counties in Montana also qualify for natural disaster benefits because their counties are contiguous.

Fort Peck Reservation, Mont., is designated as a primary natural disaster area because of losses caused by hail damage from several storms, damage from high winds and excessive moisture that occurred from June 7, 2007,

through July 31, 2007. Farm operators in Daniels, McCone, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan and Valley counties in Montana also qualify for natural disaster benefits because their counties are contiguous.

All counties listed above were designated natural disaster areas on Oct. 1, 2007, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

USDA has also made other programs available to assist farmers and ranchers, including the Emergency Conservation Program, Federal Crop Insurance and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program.

Interested farmers may contact their local USDA Service Centers for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures for these and other programs. Additional information is also available online at: <http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov>.

FSA news releases and media advisories are available on FSA's Web site at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

JOB VACANCIES:

JOB OPENING IN THE DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION:

POLICY ANALYST, POSITION #61166578, State of Montana, Department of Administration, Helena. Salary \$42,147 to \$52,684 DOQ. This position is responsible for Enterprise IT policy development and implementation, workforce development and CIO support. **Application deadline: Monday, October 22, 2007 at 5 p.m.** For a complete vacancy announcement, contact our website at http://statejobs.mt.gov/pls/mjs/MJS0110W.QueryView?P_EMPR_ID_SEQ=48576&P_JORD_APPL_SEQ=266